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6-1425

14 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Office of Strategic Information Security

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1. [REDACTED] attended a meeting this date in Room 7862, Commerce Building, to discuss with Mr. R. K. Honaman and Mr. Robert Bowman the establishment and operations of the new Office of Strategic Information Security in the Department of Commerce.

2. As recommended by the National Security Council, the President recently directed the Secretary of Commerce to establish such an office with three functions.

- a. To study the possible pre-publication review of government publications of a scientific and technical nature with a view toward controlling their publication in such a way that they would not become available to the Soviet Bloc.
- b. To develop a government policy on exchange of publications and information with Soviet Bloc countries.
- c. To institute a voluntary technical information control program on the part of private and commercial laboratories and publishers.

3. Mr. Honaman, the Director of Publications for Bell Laboratories, has been loaned to the Department of Commerce to head this office.

4. Prior to talking to us, he had had meetings with representatives from the Department of State, the Library of Congress, the ICIS, and expects to have meetings with other interested government agencies. He also noted that Secretary Weeks will write a letter to the DCI requesting that personnel from CIA be assigned to work with his office on this problem.

5. The objective of the Office's dealings with commercial publishers will be to prevent technical information of use to the Soviets from getting into print, and still in some way make it available to interested scientists in the U.S. The program will further attempt to get more information and publications from the Soviet Bloc in exchange for publications from the United States.

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2

6. Mr. Honaman was interested in developing some expert opinion on the usefulness of Soviet literature to American government and industry, and plans to set up an advisory board representing government, industry, and technical publishers. He wants people from OSI and probably ORR to assist. We promised to furnish him such assistance as we could, and provide him with certain basic lists and studies on Soviet publishing which might be of use to him. Further cooperation will await the letter to the DCI from the Secretary of Commerce and subsequent appointment of official Agency representatives.

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Deputy CIA Librarian

GBB:mt (18 October 54)

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Note: The following publications were furnished to Mr Honaman on 19 October 1954:

1. "USSR Publications Listed in the Four Continent Book Corporation Catalogue for 1955." (A CIA Library study comparing 1955 export list with the 1954 list).
2. "Survey of Book Publishing in Soviet Russia, by Nathalie Delougaz." M. A. Diss., University of Chicago, 1948.
3. "Final Report and Recommendations of Task Group 64, ICIS." 18 July 1952.
4. "Present Situation Regarding the Procurement of USSR Serial Publications in View of Export Restrictions." May, 1954. (A CIA Library study, in draft, for Procurement Subcommittee).
5. "Critical List of USSR Serials not on export list."
6. "1955 USSR Subscription List."

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<p>Remarks: DCI may possibly wish to know of this meeting in view of the letter which he is to receive from Sinclair Weeks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">huf</p>					

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